Steps to Control Land Degradation

1641. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:
SHRI K. M. KHAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government have taken any steps to create general awareness to reverse the process of land degradation and to accelerate regenerative capabilities of non-forest wasteland through preventive measures; and

(b) If so, the details thereor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WASTELAND DEVELOPMENT): (COL. RAM SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The following measures are being undertaken on an on-going basis to create general awareness by the Department of Wastelands Development to reverse the process of land degradation.

—Publication of literature on wastelands development, important activities of the Department, Technology Bulletins, Phamplets to highlight specific projects.

—Making short-duration films on on-going wastelands development projects.

—Organising training for NGOs/ farmers/Natitnal Service Scheme (NSS) Coordinators and field level workers.

—Institution of a national award, namely, Rajiv Gandhi Parti-Bhumi Mitra Award' with the objective of according recognition to the tutstanding work done by individual and institutions for development of non-forest wastelands.

—Holding of seminars on important activities and schemes of the Department.

—Holding of training programmes on different schemes of the Department.

—Logo competition was held after the creation of the new Department.

—Through the print media new initiatives, activities and schemes of the Department are highlighted.

—Under the Grant-in-Aid scheme. 10 per cent. of the funds are earmarked for administratith & awaraness raising activities. Similarly a component under the Integrated Wastelands Development Project Scheme is meant for awareness raising and eliciting people's involvement. A specific programme also exists under the Eechnology Extension scheme fir holding farmers training and 'farm days'.

—Tapping the electronic media for wide coverage of activities of the Department.

—Participating in the multi-media campaign being organised by the Ministry of Rural Areas and (mployment.

Allocation of funds for reclamation of wasteland

1642. SHRI J. S. RAJU:
SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the details of funds allocated for reclamation of wasteland during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WASTELAND DEVELOPMENT): (COL. RAM SINGH): Afforestation/tree planting activity is carried out under point no. 16 of the 20 Point Programme on various categories of land including wastelands. Under point no. 16, schemes of the Central and State Governmentst